GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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AN UNUSUALLY BEAUTIFUL CORAL MUSHROOM (Hydnum laciniatum).
The species is closely related to H. coralloides. Size: Individual clump up to 10 inches.

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Meet S'Gravenhage, Alias The Hague

WHERE is S'Gravenhage? Give up? Perhaps you know it as Den Haag. No? Well, it is only our old friend The Hague dressed in its native costume—the city in which meets the World Court, concerning the joining of which by the United States there has been much recent discussion.

This uniquely labeled town, which is the only city of importance before whose name we place "the" in English, is still more oddly named when its Dutch appellation is translated. It means something like "the hedge-enclosed space of the Count." This term was probably really descriptive in the early part of the thirteenth century when it was applied to a rural hunting lodge, but it hardly fits the present-day city, almost as large as Minneapolis, from which are governed seven million Netherlanders and their colonial empire of nearly fifty million souls. On many Dutch maps the unwieldy name has been shortened to "Den Haag" which we in turn have changed to "The Hague." As we use it, then, the name means—if it means anything after its metamorphosis—"the hedge" or "the hedge enclosure."

The Hague is not a typical Dutch city. It does not have the commerce and industry of larger Amsterdam and Rotterdam nor the distinctive Dutch quality of the smaller towns. It is cosmopolitan, and may be compared to Washington in that its chief business is governing, and that it is well built, has beautiful avenues and trees and is rich in parks. But there is much of the strictly Dutch atmosphere. Numerous canals cross the city's thoroughfares and in the center of the town is a sizable lake called the Vyver—the fish-pond—a survival of the hunting lodge days of 700 years ago. Gleaming white mansions and government buildings are grouped about this pond, which serves as a reflecting pool to set off their appearance.

Promenading is "National Sport"

The Hague's shops and cafes are excellent. Lange Pooten is the city's Fifth Avenue and Michigan Boulevard; and there of a late afternoon and evening, the crowd of promenaders seems out of all proportion to even a population of 360,000. Strolling of an evening is such a favorite pastime of the Dutch city-dweller, though, that one traveler has dubbed it "Holland's national sport."

To the east of the city is a magnificent wood—"the Bosch"—which is a remnant of the heavy forest that once covered all this portion of the coast of the Netherlands. Roads and walks extend into this beautiful natural park; and deep in its interior, beside small lakes, is a royal villa, portions of which were erected hundreds of years ago. It was in this villa that was held in 1899 the first Hague Conference called by the late Tsar of Russia.

Dutch Atlantic City Near By

To the north of the city is a smaller fragment of forest, and through it extends a beautiful avenue leading to the coast, only three miles away. The

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FISHERFOLK, HELGOLAND

The Island of Helgoland, which lies off the mouth of the Elbe, is inhabited by people of Frisian stock, whose principal industry is fishing.

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Balloons: From Morning Dew to Helium Gas

SPRING experiments by the Army with late models of dirigible balloons are arousing anew interest in lighter-than-air flying machines. Ballooning though less romantic in its appeal and decidedly more commonplace and placid looking in its appearance may be considered the forerunner of all flying as practiced today, as its progress has been steadily on the upgrade since Roger Bacon, back in the thirteenth century, propounded the theory that a hollow globe of very thin metal filled with "ethereal air or liquid fire" would float upward on the atmosphere.

Morning Dew Suggested as Filler

From that day priests, philosophers and scientists put forward the idea that a light sphere could be made to rise and float in the upper atmosphere. Almost every conceivable thing was suggested for filling these balloons. One of the most amusing was the morning dew, since that substance, according to their suppositions, was shed by the stars during the night and would be drawn back to heaven in the day by the heat of the sun.

As the result of watching the clouds the brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier, of Annonay, France, in 1782, invented the first real balloon. They concluded that if the vapor of the clouds could hang suspended in the upper air a large bag filled with such a vapor might rise and drift about as the clouds do.

Another interesting story is told about the Montgolfier brothers' originating the idea. They were watching the smoke-wreaths curl upward from their fire, when one of them began wondering if the smoke could not carry other things up with it too. In the enthusiasm of the moment they made a small fire on a little tin tray and held a large paper bag over it. With delight they watched the bag fill out and try to rise. A neighbor, a widow lady, seeing the smoke issuing from their window and fearing that the house was on fire, went running into the room. She suggested that they attach the tray to the bag, and the immediate result was that the bag rose to the ceiling.

It Flew, But They Did Not Know Why

After several private try-outs, they announced a public ascent of a balloon on June 5, 1783, and many spectators gathered to see this sphere, 105 feet in circumference, which the inventors inflated with the hot air from burning straw, rise high in the air and float off for about one and a half miles. The brothers believed for quite a while that they had hit upon some peculiar quality in the straw which had lifting properties and did not realize until later that their wonder ball had risen only because of the lightness of heated air. But they made the balloon a reality.

From this time forward the physicists in France and elsewhere took seriously this infant invention which had suddenly made its appearance in their midst. Subscriptions were taken up to further the project, the Roberts brothers con-

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terminus of this road is Scheveningen, Holland's Atlantic City, a feature which adds materially to The Hague's popularity as a conference place. The broad hard beach of this seaside resort is dotted with hundreds of queer, hooded, toadstool-like beach chairs, and at the water's edge are drawn up scores of the "bathing machines" without which no European beach would be complete.

It was not by chance that The Hague was chosen as the situation for the Peace Palace which Andrew Carnegie donated in 1913. For hundreds of years the city has been the center of European diplomacy. It might be known as "the City of Treaties." From 1688 onward The Hague has been the scene of dozens of conferences and treaty-makings, many of them of world-wide importance. It was this background of world diplomacy that led many to believe that The Hague would be chosen as the seat of the League of Nations.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with a May, 1923, issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send ..... copies of the Geographic News Bulletin for the school year beginning with the issue of May 7, for class room use, to

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Address for sending Bulletins.....

City ..... State.....

I am a teacher in..... school ....grade

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Helgoland: Germany's One-Time Gibraltar

THE thousands of explosions for the blasting away of fortifications brought about since the World War on the little island of Helgoland are said to be causing numerous cracks to appear in the rock and have even jarred large fragments of the cliffs into the sea, according to recent reports. The question is even being raised whether the islet, with the many cracks opened, may not be entirely destroyed before many decades have passed by the pounding of the heavy North Sea waves.

Because Helgoland became under Germany as truly a synonym for fortified strength as Gibraltar, most persons probably think of the little island in the North Sea as being as essentially German as Hamburg, the goosestep or the Lorelei. But this bit of land was such a newcomer in the German family circle when the World War began in 1914, that the greater part of its adult population had been born under an alien flag and was watched like spies by German secret agents during the hostilities.

This rather tenuous relationship between Germany and Helgoland was brought out a year or so ago when the people of the island sent a petition to the League of Nations asking for neutralization under protection of the League or for reannexation to Great Britain. For it was to Great Britain, strangely enough, that Helgoland belonged for nearly 100 years prior to 1890 when it was ceded to Germany.

A Geographical Orphan

Helgoland lies about 40 miles off shore from the mouth of the Elbe river, and geographically might belong either to Holland to the southwest, to Germany to the southeast, or to Denmark to the northeast. As a matter of fact the little island, at one time or another, has belonged to each of those countries and to England besides. Its people were originally Frisians as were the inhabitants of the entire adjoining coast. Their language, still in use on the island, is closer to the old Anglo-Saxon than any other existing tongue.

The Frisians fought as stubbornly as any people in Europe against the encroachments of great kingdoms and empires, opposing successively the Romans, Franks, Dutch, Spanish, Germans and Danes. The people of isolated Helgoland maintained their independence long after their brothers of the mainland had been subjugated, and have kept alive even today, in the face of intensive efforts at Germanization, something of the Frisian spirit.

A republic—one of the tiniest in Europe—from 950 until the fourteenth century, Helgoland then came under the control of the dukes of Schleswig. This was a semi-independent duchy under Danish influence. The island was taken over by Denmark at the beginning of the eighteenth century and was in turn captured by Great Britain about a century later during the Napoleonic wars. Germany came into possession of the island as the result of a political trade, not entirely pleasing to the inhabitants, who were thus thrown under German control.

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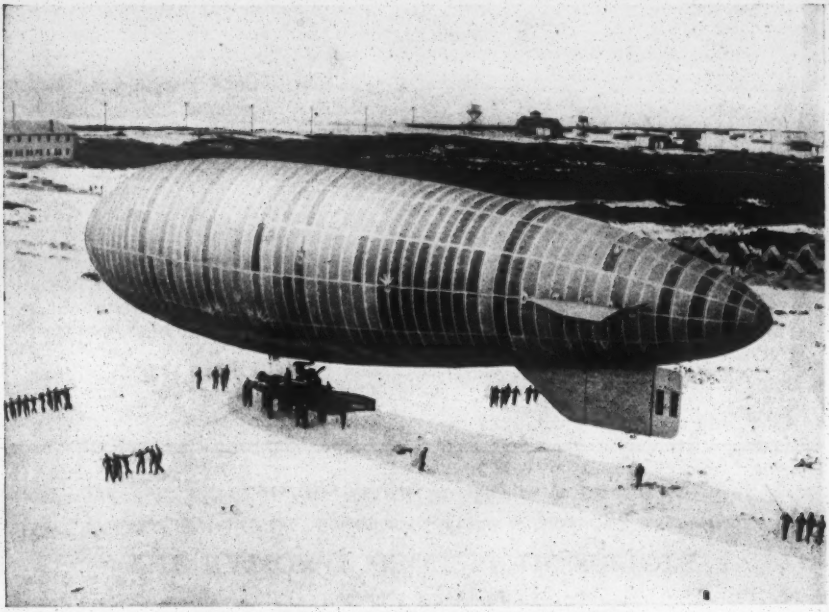
structed a balloon, the noted scientist, Charles, conceived the idea of filling it with hydrogen, and a day for the ascent was set. The sphere rose 3,000 feet in the air amid the rain, which some had thought would be an obstacle, to the wild enthusiasm of the spectators.

Repeated Experiment at Versailles

In 1783 Joseph Montgolfier repeated his experiment before the king, queen, and court at Versailles. The first living creatures to take a balloon trip went up on that day. A sheep, a duck, and a cock soared majestically into the air with the ornate balloon and descended after eight minutes about two miles away. The only injury suffered by any of them was a kick on the wing which the sheep gave the cock. Later on in that same year the gallant Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes made the first trip taken by persons in a free fire-balloon. From that time "sounding" the skies became a science. Lunardi startled Great Britain with his daring trips. It is said that when he soared into vision the king ended a conference with his ministers and a court of justice acquitted a criminal in order that all persons present might watch him.

The R–34, the British-owned dirigible which came to America a few years ago, traveling 3,130 miles in a little over 108 hours, established a world record. Only two flights exceeding one thousand miles were then recorded—those of John Wise from St. Louis to Henderson, New York, and of Count Henry de la Vaulx from Paris to Korosticheff in Russia.



THE C-1, ONE OF THE NAVY'S RIGID BALLOONS

This dirigible made a successful flight of 1,500 miles from Rockaway Beach, Long Island, to Key West, Florida.

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Melilla: Spanish Calais

THOUGH Spain's fortunes in its war with the Moors in Spanish Morocco have waxed and waned, it has managed to retain control of Melilla, the seaport key to the situation.

The town is a sort of Spanish Calais. It lies about fifty miles across the Mediterranean from Almeria, the nearest city of the Spanish mainland, just as Calais lies across from Dover. And as Calais was cherished by its English conquerors largely for reasons of sentiment and as an index to prestige, so Melilla has been cherished by the Spaniards.

Followed Moors From Spain

This was the first bit of African soil taken by Spain. Hardly had the Moors been expelled from their 700 year domination of the Iberian peninsula by the reawakened Spaniards when the latter carried the fight into the enemy's country and captured Melilla in 1496. It has remained in Spanish hands ever since, sometimes almost alone among Spanish Moroccan possessions.

Before it became Spanish territory Melilla had a long history. It was one of the posts of the Phoenicians twelve centuries before Christ, when the Mediterranean was their commercial pond and when the Pillars of Hercules were regarded as the outer gates of the world. Seven hundred years later it was the Rusaddir of the Carthaginians, and later an outpost of the Romans. During the later life of the Western Roman Empire, the place, prophetically, was governed from Spain. Later it was successively in the hands of the Vandals, the Eastern Romans and the Visigoths. In 682 it was captured by the Arabs.

Under Spain Melilla was for a long time a penal colony, but the town has not served in that capacity for nearly a generation. Until near the beginning of the present century Melilla and a few similarly situated strongholds on the Mediterranean coast represented the extent of Spain's influence in Morocco. The back country was confessedly beyond her control, the haunt of the turbulent tribes of the Riff mountains which rise a few miles south of the shore line. Since 1912 when an agreement was signed by France and Spain marking out their spheres of influence in Morocco the "Spanish Zone" has extended entirely across northern Morocco from Algeria to the Atlantic with an average depth of about 60 miles. From this zone, however, the city of Tangier and an area of about 140 square miles in its vicinity, were eliminated and placed under an international commission.

Good Position to Stand Siege

Even since the Franco-Spanish understanding Spain has done little to consolidate her zone. The first efforts on a considerable scale were made in the fall of 1920 when the sacred Moslem city of Sheshuan, in the interior, was captured. It was believed that this victory had struck a blow at Moorish resistance.

Melilla has rather a good strategic position for resisting a siege. The old

The cession took place in 1890 in return for the recognition by Germany of a British protectorate over Zanzibar, on the eastern coast of Africa.

The Eye of the Empire

No sooner had Germany come into possession of Helgoland than she began fortifying the island on a gigantic scale. The Kaiser planned to make the crag "the eye of the Empire," and its guard. Turrets of powerful, long-range guns were placed on all sides, dominating the lines of approach to the mouths of the Ems, the Weser, the Elbe, and the Kiel Canal. Practically the entire surface of the island, about a fifth of a square mile in area, was made bomb-proof. Underground passages ran in every direction through the solid rock and commodious underground barracks and seaplane hangars were constructed beyond the reach of bombardment. It is believed that more than $50,000,000 was spent in this creation of "the Gibraltar of the North Sea."

By the Treaty of Versailles it was required that Helgoland be stripped of all this expensive military equipment. For years allied experts have been supervising the tearing down and blasting away of the concrete and armor-plate fortifications and the cutting of the great guns by means of the oxy-acetylene flame into sections like gargantuan metal doughnuts.

The few thousand inhabitants of Helgoland are fishermen. Their only ambition, they say, is that militarism shall give them a wide berth in the future and that they shall be permitted to resume the making of their living from the turbulent North Sea.

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A "FAIRY RING" FORMED BY MARASMIUS OREADES, ONE OF THE BEST EDIBLE MUSHROOMS

The fact that mushrooms grow in a ring, however, is by no means an assurance that they are edible.

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Mushroom Hunting Is a Dangerous Sport

THOSE, who, unadvised or ill-advised, would gather wild species of mushrooms for the table should remember that they are embarking upon an adventure that may lead to a sudden and horrible death.

To ask a person to gather his own mushrooms for the table, without previous instruction that will enable him to avoid the deadly kinds, is equivalent to, if not worse than, inviting him to put his unprotected hand into a den of rattlesnakes.

The names of the wild species of mushrooms marketed cannot be ascertained definitely, since there is with us no such legal control of the sale of mushrooms as obtains in most cities in continental Europe. Gatherers in the United States either eat their finds themselves or sell them promiscuously to any mushroom-hungry individual who has the temerity or the knowledge to venture purchasing.

General rules for the guidance of mushroom-hunters are trustworthy and serviceable only when formulated by experienced botanists. But warnings, at least, may be given by laymen.

One good rule is: Do not collect mushrooms in or near wooded areas except for study purposes.

This rule is very general, as it does not protect against the green-gilled Lepiota, nor against an occasional Amanita and some others; but it does prevent the beginner from entering the very "lair" of the mankillers.

Do not accept mushrooms from a self-styled expert, even if you have to disoblige a dear friend. Learn the subject yourself.

That an animal (insect, squirrel, turtle, etc.) has eaten of a mushroom is no criterion of the edibility of that mushroom for man. Insect larvae thrive and grow fat on the violently poisonous Amanita phalloides.

Remember that soaking or boiling in water does not render a poisonous species edible.

Bulletin No. 5, May 7, 1923.

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city, surrounded by a wall, caps the summit of a rocky headland which is almost square. The narrow peninsula which connects it with the mainland is fortified by a chain of forts. On hills near the base of the peninsula are other fortifications. The inner harbor accommodates small craft while large vessels may anchor safely in the roadstead outside. Supplies and reinforcements can be landed from Spain with little difficulty so long as the tableland and its penisula are retained in Spanish hands.

Since 1893 a new town has been built on lower ground close to the harbor. The population, then less than 10,000, is now estimated at between 40,000 and 45,000. In recent years the city has become an important port of entry to the entire Riffian region.

Twice in the recent centuries Melilla has been subjected to severe sieges by the Moors—in 1774 and 1893. On both occasions it has withstood the attacks.

THE ATLANTIC CITY OF HOLLAND—SCHEVENINGEN

At this suburban resort of The Hague the roller-chair is replaced by the "bath-tub" chair, which protects the occupant from the wind and sun. To most American eyes the beach tents and bathing machines are as queer in appearance as the chairs.